

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 706
By Johnson R

A RESOLUTION to honor Joe D. Mourfield for his service in Desert Shield and Desert Storm as part of the 2003 Loudon County Memorial Day Program.

WHEREAS, since the birth of our great nation, hundreds of thousands of brave American men and women have served their country in the armed forces and many continue this legacy of service today, defending the most inviolate principles of human freedom and democracy; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should honor those courageous men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice of their lives to preserve the blessed freedoms we enjoy today; over one million Americans throughout our country's history have died in the service of this nation; and

WHEREAS, from the battles of the Rhineland in Europe, to the many battles of the Korean Peninsula, to the firefights and skirmishes of Southeast Asia, and to the air strikes and

bombing missions of the Persian Gulf, our armed forces have unselfishly paid the price of freedom for their friends, families, and for all of us as Tennesseans and Americans; and

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to pause in its deliberations to honor the brave sons of Loudon County who forfeited their liberty and, in many instances, their lives, and to further recognize those who endured personal hardships and imprisonment at the hands of our enemies so that we might continue to enjoy the many bounties of democracy and the American way of life; and

WHEREAS, in this same spirit, Loudon County will be holding a 2003 Veterans' Memorial Ceremony at which time Thomas Howard Bettis, a World War II veteran; Ralph J. Shope, a World War II and Korean War veteran; Charles A. Bettis, a Vietnam War veteran; and Joe D. Mourfield, a Desert Shield and Desert Storm veteran will be specially recognized and honored as representatives of the veterans of each of these four wars; and

WHEREAS, this fitting observance provides the citizens of Loudon County with the opportunity to pay tribute to the veterans from their community who have well-served this country; it is incumbent upon the members of this legislative body to recognize this important county observance and these four individuals; and

WHEREAS, Joe D. Mourfield graduated from Loudon High School in 1961 and Tennessee Tech University in 1965, where he graduated with a degree in Industrial Technology before marrying his lovely wife, Joan "Jody" Shubert of Loudon in 1967; and

WHEREAS, Joe D. Mourfield, a Master Sergeant, served for over twenty-six years in the 134th Air Refueling Group of the Tennessee Air National Guard, where he served in both Desert Shield and Desert Storm as a crew chief for the KC135 aircraft of the group, and during that service, flew upwards of ten missions, including flights from and to the United States, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait, including the transportation of a number of F-111 fighters from the Persian Gulf to the United States and back to the Persian Gulf; and

WHEREAS, Joe D. Mourfield has served the Loudon County community as a member and officer of many committees of the Loudon United Methodist Church; as a member and past president of the Loudon Lions Club; as president of the Steekee Cemetery; as chairman of important boards for the City of Loudon; and as a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, while working for many years with his family's business, the Don P. Smith Chair Company; and

WHEREAS, Joe D. Mourfield, the son of Josephine and Jack Lefler of Loudon, enjoys the love of his wife, Jody Mourfield, his son, Joe Don Mourfield, Jr. who also served in the Tennessee Air National Guard, his daughters, Alyson Spence Mourfield and Joanie Mourfield, as well as five grandchildren, other family members, church members, and friends; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Joe D. Mourfield for his accomplishments as a veteran, a family man, and a community leader.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage all Loudon County citizens to join with us in this worthy Memorial Day observance, to acknowledge the sacrifices and heroism of Joe D. Mourfield and the other veterans of Desert Shield and Desert Storm, advocating that local ceremonies and services be held across the country in memory of all deceased veterans and in appreciation and admiration for their local veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.